THE
Dan Smoot Report

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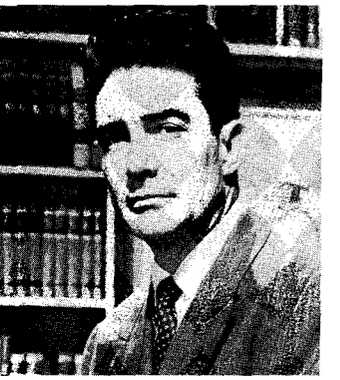

DAN SMOOT

THE 1976 COMMITTEE

On April 30, 1966, Mr. William J. Grede of Milwaukee, Admiral Ben Moreell of Pittsburgh, and Mr. Loyd Wright of Los Angeles announced in Chicago the formation of *The 1976 Committee* — whose aim is a ten-year crusade to restore the American constitutional Republic. It hopes to go out of existence, with mission accomplished, in 1976, the 200th anniversary of the American Declaration of Independence.

The Committee's general, long-range role will be to inspire, promote, and guide conservative political action. Its specific, immediate objective is to create an irresistible demand for the nomination and election in 1968 of the Honorable Ezra Taft Benson and Senator Strom Thurmond to the presidency and vice presidency of the United States.

This issue of the *Report* is taken from the Committee's April 30 press release. For more details, write to *The 1976 Committee*, 1835 Oakton Street, Des Plaines, Illinois 60018. *The Dan Smoot Report* has no connection with the Committee.

A Specific Purpose

Our independence as a free people was declared in 1776. The courage to declare it, and the strength to sustain it, required our forefathers to dedicate to the cause of freedom their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor.

Today there are tremendously powerful and solidly entrenched forces at work to abolish our nation's independence . . . to make this nation a group of provinces under a one-world socialist government. At their present rate of progress, they will have accomplished their aims by 1976.

It is the purpose of our Committee to stop this gradual surrender of American sovereignty into the grasp of a cruel worldwide tyranny. We shall strive to halt and reverse this insidious

THE DAN SMOOT REPORT is published weekly by The Dan Smoot Report, Inc., Box 9538, Dallas, Texas 75214 (office at 6441 Gaston Ave.). Subscriptions: $18.00 for 2 years; $10.00, 1 year; $6.00, 6 months; first class, $12.50 a year; airmail, $14.50. Dan Smoot was born in Missouri, reared in Texas. With BA and MA degrees from SMU (1938 and 1940), he joined the Harvard faculty (1941) as a Teaching Fellow, doing graduate work in American civilization. From 1942 to 1951, he was an FBI agent; from 1951 to 1955, a commentator on national radio and television. In 1955, he started his present independent, free-enterprise business: publishing this REPORT and abbreviating it each week for radio and TV broadcasts available for commercial sponsorship by business firms.

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change of the once glorious American way of life into the deadening stagnation, poverty, and hopelessness of existence under police-state socialism. And we too have taken 1976 as our target date.

There is great inspiration for all of us in the hope that, by just ten years from now, this whole nightmare of insanity and subversion, which is today the central fact of our lives, can already have become only a horrible memory. Within those ten years, the criminal plotters can be exposed and routed. The poisonous vines of collectivism, now slowly suffocating freedom and individualism on the American scene, can be cut back — even if not yet uprooted. When the time comes to celebrate the two hundredth anniversary of our national independence, we can find reestablished, in renewed splendor for all the world to see, that great Republic which was created for us by our Founding Fathers. And it is well worth ten years of supreme sacrifice and effort for all of us to be able, on July 4, 1976, to say: Behold, we still have what was given us by the heroic events of 1776.

Specific Means

There are many excellent groups at work to awaken, inform, and alarm the American people . . . . sowing the seeds of education and cultivating the plants of understanding in many areas which, only a few years ago, had been easily overrun by communist trespassers scattering socialist weeds.

Without the total of all this labor, *The 1976 Committee* would have no chance at all of accomplishing its objective. We must gather a *particular* harvest from the *variegated* fields which these patriots have so industriously cultivated.

An informed public opinion, even while still amorphous and undirected, is a powerful force in any aggregation of civilized human beings. Given enough time, even when there is deliberate, cunning, criminal, and organized effort to mislead and misuse it, public opinion will exert a powerful force on the side of what is right. The communists are extremely well aware of this fact of life, which is why they intend never to let the eyes and conscience of public opinion quite catch up with their crimes and purposes until it is too late.

But if an arising public awareness can be crystallized behind a political action program which has unequivocal, unwavering, and dynamic leadership, the rapid accession of support to such a program can sometimes become one of the amazing phenomena of history. We believe we are in circumstances today where the opportunity for such a development is unusually strong and clear. We think we are in a situation where the rapidly mushrooming support of an anti-communist, anti-socialist *political* movement is waiting only for leadership of stature, character, experience, determination, reliability, and uncompromising Americanism. We make no pretense of offering that leadership ourselves. But it is our purpose to name the leadership which meets all of these qualifications, and we are embarking on a ten-year crusade to rally such tremendous support behind that leadership as to enable it, by 1976, to have routed the would-be destroyers of our nation, and to have restored, strengthened, and started on a whole new era of accomplishment, that last best hope of all mankind — the American Republic.

Filling the Present Leadership Void

During the spring and summer of 1964, the conservatives of the United States, by terrific labor and sacrifice, won for Senator Barry Goldwater the Republican nomination for the presidency. This conservative beachhead should have been maintained. Here was the base on which there could gradually have been built enough conservative political strength to save the United States from its continued slide down the greased socialist planks into the morass of communism.

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But if the sound of the trumpet be uncertain, who shall prepare himself unto the battle? In the election campaign that followed, Senator Goldwater obtained the *superficial gestures and pretenses of support*, on the part of moderate Republicans, by fatal concessions as to the style and substance of his campaign. The concessions made by Goldwater, and his lack of aggressive conservative leadership, seriously dampened the enthusiasm of conservatives of both parties. So Goldwater lost the election by a huge plurality. But even then the beachhead was still his to command. And his keeping faith at this point, with the conservatives who had made him, was probably more important to his country than had been the election itself.

It had been proved that a preponderant majority of the people who called themselves Republicans in this country were still conservatives. What percentage of the American people as a whole would have voted for a conservative candidate who had put up a determined, aggressive, uncompromising fight for conservative principles, nobody knew. But the combined power of the money, the prestige, and the machinery of the Republican Party was still in the hands of those to whom it had been entrusted *because* they were conservatives.

What could yet have been done within the next few years, from this hard-earned foothold, to build a conservative Republican Party which could rally behind it a majority of the American people, nobody knows. The first task would have been to restore confidence in the conservative leadership, which confidence had been so badly weakened by the lack of any real fight in the campaign. This required only firmness in the new set of circumstances. One defeat had not destroyed the spirit of a vast conservative revival which was in the making. The disappointed but still dedicated conservatives could readily have been given renewed enthusiasm — by a leadership which itself showed determination, courage, and convictions. The opportunity was still there to build on a position of real and recognized strength.

That opportunity was destroyed. The conservative leaders (who had been created and supported by millions of hardworking, self-sacrificing, intensely patriotic conservative Americans) meekly surrendered into the hands of their liberal enemies the reins of control, and sinews of political warfare, with which they had been entrusted. American conservatives were thus left completely leaderless again, and almost voiceless, in the national political field. The resulting frustration, defeatism, and confusion have been as bad as anything the communists could have planned.

What causes such widespread despondency among politically minded American conservatives is not just the grief over so much hard work having been wiped out by what seems to them to have been a callous indifference to their labors and sacrifices. Nor is it just the feeling of now being leaderless. Far more important, as a cause of frustration and despair, has been the feeling that there was no leadership for the future.

It is our undertaking to remove that basis for pessimism, and to bring to the whole conservative community of our country a solid, unshakable, new surge of determination and confidence.

A Team You Can Trust

There is a two-man team which possesses every needed asset for taking on such an immense responsibility. We believe these two men can be drafted into making an active campaign together for the two top positions in the American government — if enough of us make clear our belief that their political leadership now offers the one best remaining chance of saving our country.

It is the proposal of this Committee that all conservative Americans, *of both parties*, begin

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demanding immediately the nomination and election of the Honorable Ezra Taft Benson and Senator Strom Thurmond, to the presidency and vice-presidency, respectively, of the United States; and that this demand be continued and increased into so mighty a roar that, by 1968, this expression of the will of the American people simply cannot be denied.

We urge that, to avoid further splits and arguments and dissension and dissipation of conservative strength, this team be accepted as the recognized leadership behind which to put concentrated and unwavering effort. We propose further that this effort be directed, by conservative Democrats and conservative Republicans alike, at making these two men the candidates of *both parties* for the positions indicated.

This is, admittedly, an unusual course. But our country has never faced more unusual circumstances, or greater danger. And since, as one famous conservative puts it, we have now had so much bi-partisan treason for the past many years, it is time we had some bi-partisan patriotism for a change.

It may well be that neither Dr. Benson nor Senator Thurmond will welcome or approve the activities of this Committee. But they are both extremely patriotic and soundly conservative Americans, who are well informed about the communist-socialist threat to our country. We are positive, therefore, that they will both heed a clear and genuine call by patriotic conservatives of the United States. It is our initial function to generate such a demand for the BEST team (that is, the *B*enson, *S*trom *T*hurmond team) and for the BEST leadership as cannot be denied.

We shall welcome your active support. We think there is a desperate need for the American people to become the masters of their own government once again. To do this, millions of good citizens will have to join in a gigantic crusade for that purpose. We can only sound the bugle calls.

IN MEMORIAM

D. B. Lewis, President of Dr. Ross Pet Food Company, Los Angeles, died April 25, 1966. Mr. Lewis pioneered patriotic broadcasting under commercial sponsorship, and contributed to many patriotic efforts. His death is an incalculable loss to the cause of constitutional conservatism.

Mr. Lewis' company sponsors my broadcasts throughout its market area — from Alaska to California, from Hawaii to West Texas. In his last conversation with me, just before he died, he said:

"Dan, the leftwingers are scared to death for the people to hear the freedom story. That's why they'll do anything to kick us off the air and silence us completely. Right now, it may seem they'll drive us out of the toehold we have in broadcasting; but we'll fight them right down to the last ditch; and we'll win, because truth has to win."

He kept his pledge. He did fight right down to the last ditch. The cause for which he fought will win, as he predicted, if constitutional conservatives dedicate themselves to maintaining and expanding the beachhead he established.

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